

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

DATE: September 8, 2005

CALLED TO ORDER: 3:04 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 3:26 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Lonnell Conley, Chairman
Patrice Abduallah
Ginny Cain
Scott Keller
Dane Mahern
Mary Moriarty Adams
Mike Speedy

ABSENT MEMBERS

Jim Bradford
Angela Mansfield

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 446, 2005 - authorizes intersection controls for the Vineyards of Fall Creek subdivision (District 5)
"Do Pass" Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 447, 2005 - authorizes intersection controls for the White Oaks Farms subdivision, section 1 (District 24)
"Do Pass" Vote: 6-0

BUDGET HEARING

Review and Analysis

PROPOSAL NO. 411, 2005 - adopts the annual budget for the Solid Waste Collection Special Service District for 2006
"Do Pass" Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 415, 2005 - adopts the annual budget for Indianapolis and Marion County for 2006 (Public Works portion only)
"Do Pass As Amended" Vote: 6-0

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, September 8, 2005. Chairman Lonnell Conley called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abdullah, Ginny Cain, Scott Keller, and Dane Mahern. Mary Moriarty Adams and Mike Speedy arrived shortly thereafter. Jim Bradford and Angela Mansfield were absent. Bart Brown, Chief Financial Officer, represented Council staff.

Chairman Conley asked for consent to hear Proposal Nos. 446 and 447, 2005 together. Consent was given.

PROPOSAL NO. 446, 2005 - authorizes intersection controls for the Vineyards of Fall Creek subdivision (District 5)

PROPOSAL NO. 447, 2005 - authorizes intersection controls for the White Oaks Farms subdivision, section 1 (District 24)

Nathan Sheets, project manager for the Department of Public Works (DPW), stated that both of these proposals meet the requirements for traffic controls.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Moriarty Adams arrived at 3:05 p.m.]

Chairman Conley asked if the district Councillors have signed off on these proposals. Mr. Sheets answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Moriarty Adams, to send Proposal Nos. 446 and 447, 2005 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

BUDGET HEARING

Review and Analysis

Chairman Conley stated that the budget was presented at the last meeting and is essentially a \$1.4 million increase over the 2005 budget. James Garrard, DPW Director, stated that the department has tightened their belt as much as possible without sacrificing core services, such as trash pick-up, snow removal, and solid waste collection.

Councillor Abdullah said that he appreciates the reductions that have been made, but more money may be needed for pothole repairs, resurfacing or operational supplies

such as salt. Michael Williams, Chief Financial Officer for DPW, stated that the budget for operational supplies (sand, salt, asphalt, etc.) has remained relatively flat over the past few years and remains flat again for 2006. Mr. Garrard stated that while the inventory and surplus of such items has dwindled a bit, he believes the budget is sufficient to meet the service needs. He stated, however, that this supply is always affected by drastic weather changes. The department pre-purchased large quantities of salt and probably has enough to make it through two-thirds of the winter season without purchasing more. Councillor Abdullah said that he wants to make sure the department has the supplies they need to meet service levels, and if more is needed, he would rather budget for it now than wait to appropriate it later. Mr. Garrard said that he believes the budgeted amount will suffice. He added that they will be coming before the committee in the next couple of months regarding a local match for the levy program and an increase in sanitary and stormwater fees to further help with budget issues.

Councillor Keller asked if the \$10 million borrowed last year from stormwater funds is addressed in this budget. Mr. Williams stated that this borrowing was authorized from the sanitary fund and not stormwater fees. Councillor Keller asked if any repayment is factored into this budget. Robert Clifford, City Controller, stated that this money has actually not yet been borrowed, and they hope to avoid doing so at all costs. He said that there are some dollars budgeted in 2006 for repayment if borrowing occurs.

Chairman Conley called for public testimony.

Glenn Pratt, citizen, stated that he is speaking both on a personal level and as a representative of the Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations (MCANA). He said that the septic and raw sewage issue is still a strong concern for residents and for Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the Marion County Health Department (MCHD). He said that he opposes using money from one source to pay for another activity. He strongly supports the stormwater fee increase, but this is a dedicated fund and should not be used for other intents, such as for urban run-off National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements. He said that these monies should be set aside only for stormwater use. He objects to sewer funds being borrowed, because they never seem to be paid back. There are federal mandates to spend these types of monies on addressing particular issues.

Mr. Garrard responded that they have not yet borrowed the sewer funds, as testified by Mr. Clifford, and hope to avoid doing so. He added that the NPDES requirements are directly related to stormwater issues and are mandated by the federal government, as well. He said that it was agreed upon that the next fee increase should go to fund projects, and other revenues should be sufficient to resolve the outstanding issues.

Chairman Conley asked if Mr. Pratt was indicating that using these funds in other areas might not be legal. Mr. Pratt stated that in his opinion it is illegal to take these funds and use them for anything other than for those purposes specified by the federal government as a part of the grant. He said that these purposes are mandated by the federal

government and it is a dedicated fund. The federal government and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has already admitted that sewer rates here in the City are unbelievably below what is needed. He added that the City should work together with the MCHD to ensure full credit with IDEM for combined sewer overflow and septic tank efforts, which also affect stormwater. He said that he would like to be able to tell citizens that the increase they see in stormwater fees will actually go toward the proper intent. Chairman Conley said that they are working on these issues and will continue to communicate with MCANA and other concerned individuals, such as Mr. Pratt, regarding new developments.

Councillor Cain asked if the budget increases require any tax increase or increased levies. Mr. Garrard said that they do not.

PROPOSAL NO. 411, 2005 - adopts the annual budget for the Solid Waste Collection Special Service District for 2006

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Cain, to send Proposal No. 411, 2004 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 415, 2005 - adopts the annual budget for Indianapolis and Marion County for 2006 (Public Works portion only)

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Cain, to "Amend" Proposal No. 415, 2005 as per Exhibit A.

Jeff Seidenstein, Deputy Controller, stated that this is a technical amendment to simply move full-time equivalent positions (FTEs) from the Department of Administration to the Department of Public Works due to the transfer of the Indianapolis Fleet Services (IFS) Division. He said that it also makes some corrections to the FTEs in the Engineering and Operations Divisions.

Councillor Abdullah asked if this simply adds a total of three positions. Mr. Seidenstein stated that this is correct. All of the positions are budgeted for in their particular divisions, but the numbers were not changed on this table.

The motion to "Amend" Proposal No. 415, 2005 carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councillor Mahern stated that his only concern with the budget is with regards to fuel prices. He asked if there are any funding sources identified if fuel prices continue to rise. Mr. Clifford said that prices peaked recently at approximately \$2.20 per gallon due to Hurricane Katrina, but he believes they will go back down. If the prices stay in that range, however, they will fall short approximately \$600,000 at the end of 2005. This additional appropriation would come from fund balances, if needed. He said that they have budgeted \$1.80 per gallon for the remainder of the year. Councillor Mahern said

that he wanted to make it clear that IFS is now under DPW's budget, and the increase seen over last year's budget is primarily due to these fuel increases and not poor management on the part of DPW. Mr. Clifford said that they are also looking at ways to reduce consumption of fuel by decreasing the number of take-home vehicles and providing guidelines about proper use of fuel.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Abdullah, to send the Public Works portion of Proposal No. 415, 2004 to the full Council with a "Do Pass As Amended" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councillor Moriarty Adams thanked Mr. Garrard and the DPW staff for all they do for District 17, and thanked staff member John Workman for helping her out recently on a specific issue.

Chairman Conley stated that Councillor Moriarty Adams could very well speak for all district Councillors and agreed that DPW staff is extremely helpful.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Speedy arrived at 3:23 p.m.]

Chairman Conley asked, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, that all those watching continue to keep those displaced by the storm and facing personal loss in their prayers. He added that Hoosiers have always been very generous in volunteering, giving and sharing, and that is one of the reasons he chose to make Indianapolis his home. He welcomed all those who have sought shelter here in Indianapolis and encouraged the public to continue offering up Hoosier hospitality, as those who are here in time of need may decide to make Indianapolis their home.

There being no further business, and upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lonnell Conley, Chairman

LC/ag